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with him, may engage in indispensable research work, upon which the future progress of our cause so largely depends; a bureau in which that work may be carried on in a good many different directions continuously; in which the committees of the Institute shall be aided and inspired to carry on their work so that no year in the history of any committee shall be without some productive result, so that we may, year by year, as we go on, constantly enlarge our boundaries of knowledge with respect to criminal law and criminology, and in connection with it, perhaps, conduct a propaganda in which the results of our accumulating wisdom, if I may so describe it, may be put at the service of communities that desire to better their conditions in this country and abroad, so that we may come really to do what we have been in an intensified degree and on a much larger scale, with a marked influence for the promotion of better conditions both in penology and in dealing with crime in its incipient stages.

"It is a large program that I am outlining and I may pledge, I am sure, not only for myself, but for my colleagues, a real determined, continual effort, during the coming year, to place the Institute upon permanent foundations of usefulness, and to enlarge and carry on the work to the best of our ability. At any rate I pledge myself to that cause, and I have great confidence in the men who have carried on the work of the Institute so long and who have, by their work, shown their faith in the utility of the work which the institute was organized to promote."

Adjournment was then taken sine die.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The committee on Vital and Penal Statistics of the Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, Nathan William MacChesney, chairman, presented its latest report at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Conference at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on August 31, 1917. With the report the committee transmitted the fourth tentative draft of an act to provide for and make uniform the registration of all births, stillbirths and deaths and to be cited as "Uniform Vital Statistics Act." The draft may be found in this number at page 599. The committee made no report on penal statistics. It recommended that this matter be referred to the committee of the conference on co-operation with the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology.

The tentative draft referred to is based upon a so-called Model State Law for the Registration of Births and Deaths drafted by a joint committee of representatives of the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the Bureau of the Census and the Children's Bureau. It creates the office of a State Registrar of Vital Statistics under the State Board of Health. Upon this officer it places squarely the responsibility of securing the registration of all births and deaths. The law divides the state into small primary registration districts; each city, each incorporated town, and each township constitutes a separate registration district, and when these are too large to be covered conveniently by the local registrar, sub-registrars may be appointed by the State Board. It provides compensation to local registrars.

The responsibility for reporting births to the registrar is placed upon the physicians and midwives, or other persons in attendance at the birth. The law provides that they may be prosecuted for failing to perform this duty. The parents of every child should specifically ascertain that the birth of the infant has been duly registered.

The above may seem to be an elaborate scheme for accomplishing this purpose, but nothing short of it will be satisfactory. The following is quoted from Monograph No. 1 of the U. S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Julia C. Lathrop, Chief, "On Birth Registration—an Aid in Protecting the Lives and Rights of Children":

"Birth registration means the record in public archives of the births of children. In the civilized countries of Europe it has long been complete. It is, of course, the first item in Vital Statistics. In the United States birth registration has made progress less rapidly than the other items of a complete system of Vital Statistics, notably death registration and the registration of marriages. While the importance of such statistics has been recognized in certain parts of America from colonial days, the country as a whole is still devoid of uniform and complete records of the births of its citizens. This neglect is undoubtedly to be ascribed to the lack of a proper conviction that such records are dignified and valuable. Everybody agrees that it is dignified and valuable to make public record of marriages and deaths. Only a moment's thought is necessary to show that the public record of births is of kindred importance, and for the same reason to protect individual and property rights.

"Moreover, as a working expedient, it is coming to be regarded as indispensable in the eradication of three great evils which affect the children of the country. There are no more important undertakings at the present day than the reduction of infant mortality, preserva-

tion of the children's right to education, and the abolishing of child labor. In serving all three of these ends, birth registration is an indispensable practical aid."

Adequate Vital Statistics are essential in order properly to safeguard the rights of the youth of the land under the Child Labor Statutes, and in order properly to administer Workmen's Compensation Acts, Occupational Disease Acts, or other legislation having to do with the health of the community. They are essential also to the fair and orderly enforcement of the selective draft law or other general or universal military service laws.

As the result of the agitation promoted largely by the Bureau of the Census and the American Medical Association, assisted informally by this committee, good birth registration laws have been enacted in at least thirty-three states and the District of Columbia, although their enforcement does not yet meet the census requirements. These states are:

Arkansas,	Massachusetts,	North Dakota,
Connecticut,	Michigan,	Ohio,
District of Columbia,	Minnesota,	Pennsylvania,
Florida,	Mississippi,	Rhode Island,
Georgia,	Missouri,	South Carolina,
Idaho,	Montana,	Tennessee,
Illinois,	Nebraska,	Vermont,
Kansas,	New Hampshire,	Virginia,
Kentucky,	New Jersey,	Washington,
Maine,	New York,	Wisconsin,
Maryland,	North Carolina,	Wyoming.

In the following states, either new laws, or important amendments are considered necessary, unless legislation based upon the act herewith presented was passed at legislative sessions of 1917, of which the committee is not aware:

Alabama,	Indiana,	Oklahoma,
Arizona,	Iowa,	Oregon,
California,	Louisiana,	South Dakota,
Colorado,	Nebraska,	Texas,
Delaware,	New Mexico	West Virginia.

The Model State Law referred to necessarily made public the fact of the illegitimacy of children with great resulting hardship to the child and without any adequate compensating benefit to the community. The chairman of this committee has discussed in full the objections to

such provisions in a pamphlet entitled, "Race Development by Legislation," printed by the State Charities Commission of Illinois, in the *Institute Quarterly*, Vol. IV, No. 2, where he quotes Mr. Victor Von Borosini in "The Problem of Illegitimacy in Europe," as found in his article in this *Journal*, Vol. V, at p. 212:

"If the legal birth and baptism certificates could be modified so that by looking them over it would not appear immediately that the person was of illegitimate origin, much unnecessary sorrow, mental anguish and suffering could be avoided. The adopted person carrying the name of the adopting person would start in life without the serious handicap under which bastards suffer, and which frequently results in their moral breakdown, ending often in the penitentiary or in suicide."

The Model State Act then pending was amended in Illinois before passage so as partially to meet this criticism, and it was agreed by Dr. C. St. Clair Drake, the Secretary of the State Board of Health of Illinois, that certain additional amendments would be supported by the Board in order completely to meet this criticism.

The act passed in Illinois, instead of providing for certain specific information, provides that the certificate shall require at least the information required by the Standard Certificates of Births and Deaths prepared by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce and Labor, and fails to protect the secrecy of the return thereby required, but still creates a public record on the question of legitimacy. This situation should be remedied.

The Minnesota Child Welfare Commission, recommended to the legislature certain changes in their law based upon the act submitted with this report, particularly sections 18, 19, 21 and 23 with reference to illegitimate births, which recommendations were enacted into law (See Minnesota Statutes—Chap. 220—Laws of 1917).

The Act attached to this report incorporates certain amendments which fully safeguard against publicity on the part of the mother in the case of an illegitimate child, prevent any use of any such information by way of blackmail against the alleged father, and fully protect the illegitimate child against knowledge or publicity because of the official records upon such fact. Not only so, but it shows the way for uniformity among the states, in which this Conference is particularly interested and statistics collected under this law and tabulated by the United States Census Bureau will give information that can be secured in no other way.

It is true that an orderly and authentic system of records of births and deaths would greatly facilitate medical, legal and judicial

procedure in which certain evidence may be necessary, but the chief benefit will result to the people themselves, and not to any limited profession. It would be of inestimable value to the criminologist and to the student of social problems covering a wide scope.

Owing to the absence of the chairman and other members of the committee from the Saratoga meeting consideration of the report was postponed until the next annual meeting.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

"COMPULSORY CITIZENSHIP TRAINING."

Before the declaration of war by the United States against Germany, Dr. Harold S. Hulbert, who is at present Chief of the Psychiatric Unit at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois, published a brief article in the *Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute* (Volume 43, Number 5, Whole Number 171, May 1917), under the above title. The substance of this article is of such fundamental value, in our judgment, from the broad point of view of education and the prevention of delinquency and criminality, that we are constrained to make liberal use of it here.

When the article referred to was being written, and long before that time, in fact, there was considerable discussion about the desirability of compulsory military training. Dr. Hulbert is here making the point that such training presents a great opportunity for the development of citizenship. He proposes the inauguration of plans to survey and instruct all the male population as the young men reach the age of military training.

When a young man presents himself at the recruiting office, he is rejected if he has defective vision, bad tonsils, dental trouble, syphilis, tuberculosis, mental disease, hernia, flat foot, etc. The physically unfit, in these respects, are rejected and as far as the State is concerned, they are lost from sight. Here is a source of waste. Dr. Hulbert proposes that the examination—and let us be reminded that he was writing in a time of peace—be made more thorough than any one man can make it; that it be made more thorough than it is in the army and navy for recruits, or at Ellis Island and similar places for immigrants. Let the young men be brought together when they are about to enlist for their compulsory term of military training and examined in large groups. Let these examinations be made by a corps of specialists, a skilled ophthalmologist to examine each recruit for vision, an internist for tuberculosis, enlarged heart and so on, a dentist, a surgeon for hernia and orthopedic abnormalities, a psychiatrist